



APPLES — IN A CLASS BY THEMSELVES

1. GENERAL

World wide Apple Computers have found ready applications in Education, and have taken the lead in innovative School applications.

It is not surprising:

- ★ Colour capabilities support visual representation, especially with graphics and animated displays.
- ★ Graphics and animation present Analog results to given problems, and need no further translation.
- ★ Sound is supportive to underline results, generate rewards to students for correct answers etc.
- ★ Computing power allows even the most complex tasks to be demonstrated in a form understandable to Students.

No longer must Students grapple with abstract concepts. Apple will help simulate most disciplines 'real time'.

2. IN AUSTRALIA

Microcomputers are now used in most teaching applications throughout Australia, opening up whole new worlds of resources and capabilities.

Presently in Australia, micro-computing in educational fields has really taken off. Throughout the nation educators in each state, have realised the growing need for educational awareness and understanding of computers, and the new technological age that has dawned. The way in which Education Departments are approaching new technology varies from State to State.

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We might briefly look at these: —

1) **Northern Territory**

The Territory has approximately a dozen secondary schools, of which over fifty per cent have an APPLE II for use in various educational applications.

2) **Western Australia**

In the West they presently have two major micro-computers. The government backed S-100 system and the APPLE II numbering approximately twenty installations each. There are also some PDP machines, and Western Australia's local product, an S-100 based machine. Generally, W.A. seems to follow the lead of Tasmania.

3) **South Australia**

South Australia supports about fifty APPLE II's which can also be used as terminals linked to the Department of Education's Angle Park Computing Centre, with the computing centre featuring a Corvus Constellation system and 8 Apples on line.

4) **Tasmania**

There are about fifty APPLE II's on the holiday isle. These along with a number of other terminals connect the schools to the Department's mainframe in Hobart. University of Tasmania is teaching Pascal on 24 Apple Computers under Professor Arthur Sale. Australia's foremost proponent of Pascal.

5) **Queensland**

Queensland has adopted a different approach with the Department of Education recommending APPLE II and instead of a central mainframe, extra finance is being used to evaluate programs. There are approximately one hundred APPLE II's in Queensland Schools.

6) **Victoria**

Victoria was functioning in a similar way to South Australia until recently when the Archdoch Computer Centre was closed. Victoria presently has about two hundred and fifty APPLE II's in its schools. More recently the Archdoch Computing Centre has re-opened.

7) **New South Wales**

New South Wales like Queensland recommends the APPLE II (State Contract No. 81/55) but do not have an official mainframe for schools to dial in and use. There are approximately two hundred and fifty APPLE II's in New South Wales schools, with II Regional Centres establishing a dial-up facility between themselves based on Apples.

8) **Australian Capital Territory**

The A.C.T. has a large PDP mainframe with which the ten to fifteen APPLE II's can communicate. Apple Computers are recommended for their individual schools.

As you can see, there are extensive projects and contracts in all states, resulting in approximately six hundred and fifty APPLE II's in secondary schools, and another three hundred and fifty in tertiary institutions.

3. APPLICATIONS

A computer is no doubt the most flexible tool ever created by mankind, its limitations lie in the hands of the user. On that note you'll understand why we can not list all the applications involving education. The major uses are as follows: —

- 1) Scientific applications are numerous especially within tertiary institutions where microcomputers monitor, and process results of experiments. Micros can be used as recording devices, connected to laboratory equipment and test instruments. Powerful Analog to Digital, Add-on Hardware makes Apple the logical choice.
- 2) More obviously, micros are used in the processing and storage of information. This typically may involve student results, multiple choice test evaluation and results, inventory or scientific data.
- 3) Administration procedures can also be handled by our ever faithful micro. Wordprocessing, accounts, budgeting, etc. can all be handled with a minimum of fuss. This may also include libraries in Schools and Colleges. (We have a bar-wand reader ideal for library applications).
- 4) Classroom use, whether it be remedial (a situation where the machine is completely dedicated to one student), or as a teaching tool (running experiments, simulations etc.), creates tremendous student interaction.
- 5) Teaching students how to program the computer is probably the most popular application, as it is the opinion of many that students should be made familiar with the large career markets of tomorrow.

These are only a few of the areas in which computers have been adopted in education. No matter how many or what kind of applications we find, the underlining and most important factor is awareness: — Teaching people the truth about computers, and erasing misconceived ideas of Big Brother, for so long supported by traditional mainframe suppliers.

Get your teeth into Computing, it is about to change the way we live.

— ★ ★ EXPERIENCE AN APPLE ★ ★ —
AND BE READY FOR TOMORROW.